FW: Reach out to US partners on tow trucks - Montana Governor available at 1:30 or 3pm today

From: "Keenan, Michael" <michael.keenan@tc.gc.ca>
To: "Alghabra, Omar: PARL" [Irrelevant]@parl.gc.ca>
Cc: "Maka, Mike" <mike.maka@tc.gc.ca>, "Hill, Miled" <miled.hill@tc.gc.ca>, "Thangaraj, Arun" <arun.thangaraj@tc.gc.ca>, "Brosseau, Kevin" <kevin.brosseau@tc.gc.ca>
Date: Mon, 14 Feb 2022 18:09:45 +0000

UNCLASSIFIED / NON CLASSIFIÉ

Minister, Mike

As per below, the Governor of Montana has availability this afternoon to talk to you.

There is a murky backstory on what Alberta has asked Montana, if anything.

While the Montana government is anti-mandate, they are definitely pre-trade, so while not friendly to out policies is likely supportive of efforts to get the border open.

If you have time to call we can set it up quickly.

Michael

From: Frank.Stendardo@international.gc.ca <Frank.Stendardo@international.gc.ca>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 12:26 PM
To: Keenan, Michael <michael.keenan@tc.gc.ca>
Cc: Thangaraj, Arun <Arun.Thangaraj@tc.gc.ca>; Bijimine, Serge <serge.bijimine@tc.gc.ca>; Joly, Brigitte <brigitte.joly@tc.gc.ca>; Brosseau, Kevin <Kevin.Brosseau@tc.gc.ca>; McCrorie, Aaron <aaron.mccrorie@tc.gc.ca>; Brackenridge, Jimmy <jimmy.brackenridge@tc.gc.ca>; Paravan, Dora <dora.paravan@tc.gc.ca>; Sully, Jennifer <jennifer.sully@tc.gc.ca>; Drouin, Mélanie <melanie.Drouin@tc.gc.ca>
Subject: RE: Reach out to US partners on tow trucks - Montana Governor available at 1:30 or 3pm today
Importance: High

Deputy,

Governor Gianforte of Montana would be available at 11:30am MT (1:30pm EST) or 1:00pm MT (3pm EST) to discuss the Sweetgrass/Coutts border crossing with Minister Alghabra. Grateful to know if either of those times work for the Minister.

The embassy also followed up with the Alberta Office about Montana's apparent "reluctance to help" and the GoC refusing AB's request. The Embassy mentioned we're hearing that Montana has been reluctant to provide assistance. AB office said they listened in on the call with Governor Gianforte on Friday. Said the governor's team has been "super responsive" with them but MT really hasn't been engaged on this issue because most of the action has been happening on the Canadian side of the border. **A request for assistance didn't really come up (which differs from the Minister's understanding).** They noted that the MT side of the border is a very remote area with limited

population. The governor's office committed to raising the border issue with the local sheriff in that area, but the plan was to let local law enforcement handle any issues.

Regarding AB's request for federal assistance, the AB office was unclear on the specifics, but understood someone in the GoA reached out s.38 s.38 I will be speaking with their office later today.

For additional context, our Denver office has indicated that the Governor has been against mask and vax mandates generally and that Montana senators have come out in support of the convoys.

Best
Frank

From: Keenan, Michael <michael.keenan@tc.gc.ca>
Sent: February 13, 2022 2:09 PM
To: Stendardo, Frank -WSHDC -TD <Frank.Stendardo@international.gc.ca>
Cc: Thangaraj, Arun <Arun.Thangaraj@tc.gc.ca>; Bijimine, Serge <serge.bijimine@tc.gc.ca>; Joly, Brigitte <brigitte.joly@tc.gc.ca>; Brosseau, Kevin <Kevin.Brosseau@tc.gc.ca>; McCrorie, Aaron <aaron.mccrorie@tc.gc.ca>; Brackenridge, Jimmy <jimmy.brackenridge@tc.gc.ca>; Paravan, Dora <dora.paravan@tc.gc.ca>
Subject: Re: Reach out to US partners on tow trucks

Thanks Frank.

We are including U in the prevtief and min brief on all this starting at 2:20 today

Michael Keenan
Deputy Minister - Sous-ministre
Transport Canada -Transports Canada
michael.keenan@tc.gc.ca
(pronoun: he/him - pronom d'usage : il)

> On Feb 13, 2022, at 12:40 PM, Frank.Stendardo@international.gc.ca wrote:
>
> Deputy,
>
> I've pulled the Ambassador from the email chain so I can provide an update.
>
> The Embassy has reached out to both Consulates (Denver and Minneapolis), which are working on trying to set up these calls with the Montana and N Dakota governors' offices. The consulates are keeping me apprised so I can help with any call details. We've indicated the Minister is available ASAP.
>
> We've also reached out to the Alberta office at the embassy to better understand the nature of AB engagement with MT to date and whether there is more outreach they can do.
>
> Frank
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Keenan, Michael <michael.keenan@tc.gc.ca>
> **Sent:** February 13, 2022 11:20 AM
> **To:** Hillman, Kirsten -WSHDC -HOM/CDM <Kirsten.Hillman@international.gc.ca>

Cc: Stendardo, Frank -WSHDC -TD <Frank.Stendardo@international.gc.ca>; Thangaraj, Arun <Arun.Thangaraj@tc.gc.ca>; Bijimine, Serge <serge.bijimine@tc.gc.ca>; Joly, Brigitte <brigitte.joly@tc.gc.ca>; Brosseau, Kevin <Kevin.Brosseau@tc.gc.ca>; McCrorie, Aaron <aaron.mccrorie@tc.gc.ca>
Subject: Re: Reach out to US partners on tow trucks

Thanks Kirsten.

Yes, good Newson Ambassador.

Michael Keenan
Deputy Minister - Sous-ministre
Transport Canada -Transports Canada
michael.keenan@tc.gc.ca
(pronoun: he/him - pronom d'usage : il)

On Feb 13, 2022, at 10:48 AM, Kirsten.Hillman@international.gc.ca wrote:

Hi Michael,

I think that we should reach out to Montana and North Dakota. We are making some inquiries regarding dynamics and will work with your team to set up the right convos.

Good news about Windsor.

K

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 13, 2022, at 10:50 AM, Keenan, Michael <michael.keenan@tc.gc.ca> wrote:

UNCLASSIFIED / NON CLASSIFIÉ

Kirsten,

I know you and your folks have done some great work on tow trucks, and helped secure some from Detroit for Ambassador Bridge. (BTW, it is not open yet, but very close).

We have a tow truck strategy group working with Alta government and local helping them secure enough capacity to move vehicles at Coutts once enforcement starts: combination of licensed drivers, heavy tow trucks, and other heavy equipment like bulldozers to push them into a ditch if needed. We have a similar porcess for Ottawa, although the dynamic is a bit different.

Alberta had reached out to Montana to seek help securing tow trucks or skilled tow truck operators but did not have any success.

We would like your view on another reach out to Montana or others in Western US for help. Secretary Buttigieg offered Minister Alghabra any assistance on anything related to opening the border crossing. The Minister is ready to reach back to the Secretary or call the Governor of Montana ASAP. (And I have offered to update US DOT colleagues today, and can make an ask when I do).

Would appreciate your advice and support on the best tactics to reach out to the US on this. (I have copied the team working on this here)

Michael Keenan
Deputy Minister - Sous-ministre
Transport Canada -Transports Canada
michael.keenan@tc.gc.ca
(pronoun: he/him - pronom d'usage : il)